

RWANDA: USE OF ZAIRIAN TROOPS IN CAMPS FOR SECURITY

RELEASED IN FULL

- o The problem of security in the Zaire camps offers no easy solution. The UN approached 60+ countries and found little interest in providing foreign forces to assure security in the camps. The UNHCR and UN Secretary General concluded that the proposal to use Zairian forces in the camps is the best available option.
- o UNHCR is supporting the deployment of 1,500 security agents for the purpose of:
 - improving law and order in the Rwandan refugee camps
 - avoiding intimidation and violence against refugees wishing to repatriate
 - protecting humanitarian installations and personnel
 - providing escorts to convoys for voluntary repatriation from refugee camps to the border
- o About 300 Zairian troops have already been deployed in the Goma area. They have already escorted over 1,600 refugees desiring repatriation to the border. UNHCR's liaison group is now getting underway with an initial contingent of 16 Dutch advisors on the ground in Goma.
- o While we are cognizant of the problems associated with Zairian security forces, we believe that if properly supervised, equipped and paid, they could contribute to an improvement in the security situation.
- o In this regard, it should be noted that Zairian forces have been handling security in the area around the camps for several months. While insecurity and intimidation remain a problem, there has been some improvement in security conditions.
- o UNHCR has estimated that it will cost \$9.6 million for the first five months of the operation. The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration has earmarked up to \$2.5 million (over 25%) of our recent \$20 million contribution to UNHCR toward this effort.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE SELLIN
DATE/CASE ID: 1 FEB 2002 200000294

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SERWBY323, 3-1033

2/13/95 updated 3/17/95

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